

Please amend claims 4 and 8 as follows:

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c).

8. (Amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

Please add the following new claims 24-29:

—24. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

25. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

26. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

27. The vector of claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

28. The vector of claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

29. The vector of claim 28, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence. --

**Version of Amended Claims With Markings to Show Changes Made:**

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the [an] amino acid sequence of [shown in] SEQ ID NO:2;

[(b) a nucleotide sequence that encodes of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(c) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(d) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids; and]

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) [(e)] a nucleotide sequence that is [the complement of] completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-[(d)](c).

8. (Amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the [a] nucleic acid molecule of claim [5] 4.